

Offered: 4/28/88
Referred: Health, Education and
Social Services and Finance

5-2140L

Original sponsor: Judiciary Committee

1 IN THE SENATE BY THE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
2 CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 505 (State Affairs)
3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
4 FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION
5 A BILL
6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Alaska Children's Commis-
7 sion; and providing for an effective date."
8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:
9 * Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding new sections to read:
10 ARTICLE 14B. ALASKA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION.
11 Sec. 44.19.270. ALASKA CHILDREN'S COMMISSION. (a) The Alaska
12 Children's Commission is established in the Office of the Governor.
13 (b) The commission consists of the following persons:
14 (1) representatives designated by the governor from the
15 Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Community
16 and Regional Affairs, the Department of Public Safety, and the Depart-
17 ment of Education;
18 (2) a member of the senate appointed by the president of
19 the senate;
20 (3) a member of the house of representatives appointed by
21 the speaker of the house;
22 (4) six public members appointed by the governor who are
23 involved with children and issues affecting children;
24 (5) one member appointed by the governor who is not more
25 than 21 years of age and who serves until the member reaches the age
26 of 22 years.
27 (c) A vacancy on the commission shall be filled in the same
28 manner as the original appointment or designation. The person ap-
29 pointed shall serve for the unexpired portion of the term.

1 (d) The members of the commission appointed under (b)(4) of this
2 section serve at the pleasure of the governor for staggered terms of
3 four years.

4 (e) The members of the commission appointed under (b)(4) and (5)
5 of this section serve without compensation for their service on the
6 commission but are entitled to per diem and travel expenses authorized
7 by law for commissions under AS 39.20.180.

8 (f) The members of the commission shall elect one of the members
9 as chair and may elect other commission officers as necessary.

10 Sec. 44.19.272. DUTIES OF COMMISSION. (a) The commission shall

11 (1) engage in a continuing review of the needs of and
12 problems facing children and develop effective, comprehensive, and
13 coordinated strategies to address those needs and problems;

14 (2) serve as an advocate for the interests of children;

15 (3) define the immediate service needs of children;

16 (4) develop minimum standards for care available to chil-
17 dren and families in the areas of child care, health, social services,
18 parent and staff training, nutrition, mental health, safety, and
19 employment of youth;

20 (5) identify specific goals and strategies to achieve a
21 minimum standard for care of children, including state funding pri-
22 orities for prevention and early intervention services to meet the
23 needs of children;

24 (6) identify the current level of services available and
25 gaps and overlaps in services to children;

26 (7) develop and recommend adoption of a process for moni-
27 toring and evaluating children's programs, with emphasis on profes-
28 sionally coordinated peer review and program enhancement;

29 (8) provide opportunities for the public to participate in

1 the planning and development of children's programs through public
2 hearings, teleconferences, and local community programs;

3 (9) meet with state officials and members of advisory
4 committees to state agencies that are responsible for the expenditure
5 of state and federal funds or for other matters on behalf of children;

6 (10) receive from state officials, members of state advisory
7 committees, legislators, representatives of the state court system,
8 and providers of children's services requests for review and recommen-
9 dations by the commission on matters related to children;

10 (11) serve as a statewide clearinghouse for model programs
11 and resources for technical assistance for children's programs;

12 (12) advocate studies and basic data collection on children;

13 (13) inform leaders of the business community, education
14 community, and municipalities and the communications media of the
15 nature and scope of problems faced by children, in order to encourage
16 their support for improving the delivery of services to children and
17 state budgeting processes and state policies concerning children.

18 (b) In formulating the strategy to address the needs of and
19 problems facing children, the commission shall seek advice and infor-
20 mation from children's services providers with expertise in children's
21 mental health, health care including prenatal care, adolescent drug
22 and alcohol treatment, education including early childhood education,
23 nonprofit funding sources, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence,
24 child care, dependency, delinquency and the justice system, and family
25 support systems.

26 (c) The commission shall submit a report each year by the 15th
27 day of the legislative session to the governor and the legislature on
28 the status of children in the state and recommendations for improve-
29 ments for the delivery of children's services.

1 Sec. 44.19.274. REVIEW OF LAWS. The commission shall review the
2 laws of the state with regard to matters involving children and shall
3 make an annual report of its findings and recommendations to the
4 governor and the legislature by January 1 of each year.

5 Sec. 44.19.276. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND STAFF SUPPORT TO THE
6 COMMISSION. The departments and agencies of the state shall cooperate
7 with the commission and shall, subject to the availability of funding,
8 provide technical assistance and staff support to the commission upon
9 the request of the commission.

10 Sec. 44.19.278. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION. The commission may

11 (1) utilize legal, technical, secretarial, and administra-
12 tive services as may be provided by the governor and the legislative
13 council;

14 (2) utilize voluntary and uncompensated services of private
15 persons and organizations as may be made available to the commission;

16 (3) hold public hearings;

17 (4) apply for and receive grants from public and private
18 funding sources, as may assist the commission in fulfilling its
19 duties;

20 (5) hire staff as necessary to perform the duties of the
21 commission; and

22 (6) take other actions reasonably necessary to achieve the
23 purposes of the commission.

24 * Sec. 2. INITIAL APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC MEMBERS TO ALASKA CHILDREN'S
25 COMMISSION. (a) Notwithstanding provisions of AS 44.19.270(d) relating to
26 terms of public members, as enacted by sec. 1 of this Act, of the six
27 public members first appointed to the Alaska Children's Commission by the
28 governor, two shall each serve a term of two years; two shall each serve a
29 term of three years; and two shall each serve a term of four years.

1 (b) In making the initial appointments of public members of the
2 commission, the governor shall designate the expiration date of the terms
3 of members appointed under this section.

4 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect January 31, 1989.